



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAR. 26, 1879.

The old adage respecting the necessity of cutting out garments according to the quantity of the cloth at the disposal of the cutter could not possibly have more urgent and direct applicability than to the expenditures and receipts of the municipal government of Alexandria. Business of all sorts is depressed to an extent hardly ever before experienced, the depreciation in the value of property is almost unexampled, the decrease in the number of licenses is becoming more and more apparent, and the list of delinquent tax payers lengthening yearly. All the sources of revenue are diminishing, and yet the expenditures continue the same, and to meet them the taxes must be kept at such high figures that they serve not only to burden those of whom they are exacted, but to still further lessen the material from which the municipal revenue is derived. Nearly all the cities in the country are suffering from the same disease that now afflicts Alexandria, but it has reached such a serious stage here that it demands heroic treatment. The taxes are as high now as they were during the times of the city's greatest prosperity, and the expenses as large as they ever were, but the means to meet them were never less. This condition, of course, cannot last much longer. The expenditures must be cut down at once, and that, too, with no sparing hand, if an improvement in the city's affairs is hoped for. A bill has been passed by the General Assembly authorizing the city to refund its indebtedness in three per cent. bonds, but the creditors will not even attempt to accept such terms until they see an attempt, at least, by the Corporation to do its part, by curtailing expenses, toward assuring them that those terms will be complied with.

Inasmuch as the President has already announced his intention of vetoing a proposed bill for the repeal of the law putting the federal elections in all the larger cities of the country under the control of Johnny Davenport and giving the State of New York to the radicals at the next election, it is probably just as well that the joint committee of the democrats of the two Houses of Congress have decided to report in favor of submitting the appropriation bills to him with the legislative riders attached, as by that means time will be saved. Under existing circumstances there would be as little reason for the passage of a bill simply repealing the obnoxious law as there would be in emulating the foot when the surgeon knew that in the end the leg would have to come off. What the country now wants, as the issue is to be made, is for it to be joined at once, so that the definite result may not be delayed, for the worst that can happen will be preferable to the existing suspense and the depression and stagnation it occasions.

After a careful and unbiased investigation, we have come to the deliberate conclusion that a trip to Florida in the month of March, with congenial spirits, and a diet, while there, of Jacksonville, Cocktail and Indian River oranges, will increase the avoirdupois of the average man about four pounds per week; after which he had better leave the land of the alligator, the sand fly and the mosquito, and return to some place where the grass grows, else the consequences may be serious. The gloomy grandeur of Bonaventure, the fairy like flower grove of Drayton Manor, the orange groves of the Indian River and Palatka, and the beautiful meanderings of the Ocklawaha, are certainly things of beauty, but for us, give us—old Virginia, forever.

Some of the Baltimore newspapers are engaged in a controversy concerning the number of their respective subscribers, and the means resorted to to obtain advertisements. The Sun accuses the American of employing means utterly incompatible with high toned journalism to fill up its advertising columns, and thus the latter's assertion that it has more subscribers than any other paper south of Mason and Dixon's line. Both are excellent newspapers, the most marked improvement in the American being the recent sudden and remarkable change, for the better, that has taken place in the manner in which it treats the personnel of the democracy.

FOREIGN NEWS.

More floods are reported in Hungary, causing great damage.

Another fight with the Afghans is reported. Gen. Tylor having, as stated, defeated 3,000 of the hostiles.

The French Senate has voted in favor of hastening the decision of the question of removing the legislative capital to Paris.

A long debate in the British Parliament last night in regard to the Zulu war ended in a vote of confidence in the administration.

Queen Victoria left London yesterday for the continent, embarking in the royal yacht Victoria and Albert. Her Majesty preceded to Cherbourg. After a short stay in Paris she will go to Arosa, on the shore of Lago Maggiore, in Italy.

The Late Benj. C. Porter.
NEW YORK, March 26.—The remains of the actor Benjamin C. Porter, who was shot at Marshall, Texas, a short time ago, were buried this morning from the Church of Transfiguration, ("Little Church Around the Corner.") Admission to the church, which was crowded, was by ticket only.

Five Men Drowned.
KASTROP, Mo., March 26.—Last night at Bliss Harbor, a few miles from here, on the New Brunswick side, four men from the schooner Hattie S. Clark and one from the schooner Earnest F. Norwood, were drowned. The five were going ashore in a dory, which upset.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.)
RICHMOND, March 25.—The Poindeexter trial continues to draw immense crowds. The case will probably be disposed of this week. Miss Isabella Cottrell, the young lady who poor Curtis was charged with having insulted, will be put upon the stand to-morrow.

Many of the members of the Legislature visited the court room to-day, and many others are taking their last tour around the city this evening before they leave to-morrow never to return. It is a sad sight to see a small batch of legislators wandering around town at the close of the session. They have such an uncertain look in their eyes—the look of a man who does not know where he is going. In this wronging in the Legislature there is more than one member who does not know to save his life how his chances will be for re-election.

A good many people went from this city to the New Kent execution. The two condemned men certainly were the coolest customers ever in a similar predicament. All the way down from Richmond they were laughing and eating ginger cakes. When they reached Summit Station and disembarked, the cortege stopped a short while at the residence of Christian's mother. She came out to the wagon and embraced him, and began the usual Ethiopian shout such as "My pet lamb is going to Heaven to-night; glory be to God." Christian turned away from her impatiently, and said, "Oh! go away, you're making too much fuss." Another instance of their remarkable nonchalance; when they were taken in the cart house and arrayed in long gowns Christian turned to the jailer and asked him for a chew of tobacco which was given him, and he mounted the scaffold cheerily. Christian, when upon the scaffold, delivered his confession in a stentorian voice. He was a perfect extempore. The following passage from his confession will give an idea of the whole speech: "Yes my friends, I see de executioner, but I trusts in de Lord Jesus Christ. Let dis be a warning to every soul." Then he burst into a strain of singing and shouting after the most approved camp meeting style. "Yes, my friends, old and young, put down yo' sinful ways. I see de Father and Son lives. Look at dis rope round my neck. How come it so? I put it dar case I break de law. Good bye friends, good bye all; good bye brethren and sisters; good bye church and pillars, and deacons; I hope I'll see you all dar." Patrick Smith followed him in the same strain and said he was willing to go. "Umph, umph; yes Lord I will lay in de bosom of Abraham dis night. Let dis be a warning to every man, woman and child. I hope de devil never will lead you off." They were hunched, and seemed to care no more about it than if they were eating a good breakfast at friends' tables. It is strange, here was a sample of faith for you. Faith, hope and charity; of the three they possessed the first in a remarkable degree. Poor devils, they were not blessed with much sense, and all that they had clung close around the one anchor—Faith. They committed a heinous crime; they acknowledged their offense and laughed over the details of their horrid deed, but they were comforted to the last by the consciousness that they had "got 'ligion," and their idea went no farther than to grasp, as the soundest of doctrines, this one: "Get 'ligion, and you will be saved." And so singing: "Lord rock my soul in de bosom of Abraham."

Lord rock my soul!—they stepped out.

An enterprising publisher proposes to make up a ten cent book of ray reading, which is to consist of the "Life between two Senators" in the Virginia Senate last week; the confessions of Patrick Smith and Julian Christian; the speeches to the Poindeexter case, and all the versions of "Baby Mine," collated and edited by that rising young Italian author of this city (and by the way friend of Baccioloppe, the murderer), Colon Elbert.

As an indication of the lateness of the session and the indisposition of the members to do much more work may be taken the fact that in the House to-day not a single bill was introduced. In the House when the time came for the final vote on the debt bill it was found that the republicans stood solidly against it. There were two exceptions: Dr. E. H. Smith, of Dinwiddie, and T. Spicer Curlett, of Lancaster. The bill passed by a vote of 76 to 50 in the House and the vote for the bill was composed almost entirely of regular conservatives. It got two independent Whites and Winfield, of Hanover, and two republicans Curlett and Smith. There were against it 19 independents and seven republicans, while there were 72 conservatives for and 24 against it. In the Senate it got 20 conservatives while 12 conservatives and 4 republicans voted against it. Taking both bodies 101 conservatives voted for it and 29 against it—nearly 4 to 1.

Gen. J. C. Hill, Sergeant at Arms of the House, has had a rough time. He has been sick for the last two months and will scarcely be able to be here this session.

Gen. Starke, of Brunswick, has also been under the weather this session.

STROUDGROW.

Democratic Congressional Caucuses.

The committees appointed last week by the democratic caucuses of the House and Senate held a joint meeting yesterday after the adjournment of the Senate and reached a final agreement concerning both the general nature and the precise form of recommendations for political legislation during the present session of Congress. They will recommend that the repeal of the law authorizing the presence of troops at the polls be effected by incorporating in the army appropriation bill a copy of the clause agreed to by the House of Representatives last session; that the jurors' test oath be likewise simply abolished by the insertion of a revealing clause in the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill; and that the provisions then incorporated by the House in the same bill, amendatory of the law in regard to the mode of impeaching jurors be substantially reworded. In addition to the two last named clauses there will be recommended for incorporation into the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill, a series of clauses, the effect of which, will be to repeal the existing authority for the appointment of chief supervisors and deputy marshals for elections, and to restrict the functions and power of the two supervisors of different policies, whose appointment in the present manner will continue to be authorized, to those of witnesses and challengers only. It will also be provided that these supervisors must be residents and duly qualified voters in the precincts where they are to serve.

The jurisdiction of the Federal courts to punish such frauds in the elections for representative to Congress as may be reported by the supervisors or other citizens is not to be interfered with; nor will the caucus be advised to disturb in any manner the existing law known as the "enforcement act," relative to suffrage or other civil rights.

These recommendations will be reported to a joint caucus of the democratic members of the two Houses this evening.

A separate caucus of democratic senators will probably be held this afternoon, after the adjournment of the Senate.

Senators Lamar and Voorhees, who were absent on Saturday, participated in yesterday's joint meeting of the caucuses committee. Senator Saulsbury presided, Judge Thurman being detained at his residence by sickness.

The State government revolution in Sonora, Mexico, which was favored by President Diaz, has succeeded.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Members digging at the Island Creek, near Paducah, Ky., searching for \$300,000 and a barrel of silver, buried long ago by the Spaniards.

The official enrollment of the United Workmen, reported to the Grand Lodge, at session at Nashville, Tennessee, shows a strength of 63,000.

Coal is now being mined in Pennsylvania at the rate of two and a quarter million tons per month, when last year only one million and a half were produced.

Rich ore has been discovered in the Marioposan mine, of California, assaying \$200 per ton. In the Burke's south drift a solid vein of quartz eight feet wide has been struck. The ore is improving as the drift advances.

Secretary Sherman has received a letter from T. W. Phillips, of Spartanburg, C. S., enclosing a \$1,000 Confederate bond, asking that the bond shall be recorded, anticipating that a law will sooner or later be passed making them convertible into United States bonds.

Howard Malcolm, D. D. LL. D., aged 81, died in Philadelphia yesterday. He was president of the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia, honorary president of the American Baptist Historical Society, honorary president of the American Peace Society and senior vice president of the Pennsylvania Bible Society.

A bill has been introduced in the Delaware House of Representatives authorizing Francis M. Rogers, of New York, in consideration of \$400,000 to re-establish the drawing of lotteries in the State. The bonus is to be devoted to aiding the public schools and internal improvements, and the privilege is to extend for 20 years. Wilmington, as her share, is to have \$70,000 for building the new court house.

A bronze figure of a Confederate soldier, measuring seven feet in height and weighing nearly one thousand pounds, has recently been purchased at the National Fine Art Bazaar, in New York. It was modeled by the sculptor Richards, and is to surmount the shaft of the Soldiers' Memorial in Savannah, Ga. The figure represents a private of the Confederate army.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Mr. Harris, of Va., asked leave to offer a resolution directing the Committee on Judiciary to inquire into the facts connected with the action of Alexander Rives, judge of the United States District Court for the western district of Virginia, in interfering with the action of the State judges holding State courts in accordance with the laws of Virginia, but objection was made from the republican side, and Mr. Conger announced that he would object to the introduction of anything unless it had reference to appropriation bills.

The Court of General Session met at Columbia, S. C., on Monday, when the indictments against ex-Governor Chamberlain, Kempton, Parker and others, as members of the Grand Commission, were called on. Mr. Meade appeared as counsel for the defendant, Chamberlain, the only one of the defendants bound over for trial, and asked for a continuance till the next term on account of the domestic and personal bereavement of his son, one of his sons having recently died, and he and his family being persecuted by the disease that caused his son's death. The case was continued, as were all the others in which the former State officials are defendants.

Yesterday morning, in New York, Judge Donohue, by consent of counsel, entered orders dismissing the suit of Cornelius J. Vanderbilt against his brother, Wm. H. Vanderbilt, for \$1,000,000, alleged to have been promised for withdrawing opposition to the probate of the Commodore's will, and also a similar order in the suit of the same plaintiff for \$7,000,000 damages for alleged conspiracy by Wm. H. Vanderbilt, Chauncey M. Depew and others to get some one to persecute him and have reports of his supposed misconduct sent to the Commodore by the detectives. This ends the whole case, as no appeal is to be taken from the Surrogate's admission of the will to probate.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

R. W. Arnold, Henry Birdsong and J. S. Ellis, indicted as State judges of election, for expelling a United States supervisor from the polling place at Waverly, were acquitted in the United States Court at Norfolk yesterday. The jury was mixed in color and politics.

There was quite a demonstration at Staunton, Monday night, over the passage by the House of Delegates of the State debt bill. The military turned out, salutes were fired by the infantry and artillery companies, and there was a handsome display of fire works. Congratulatory speeches were made by State Senators Phlegar, Brooks and Kooser.

Patrick Smith and Julius Christian, the two young negroes who murdered Mr. John B. Lay, on January 17, were hanged at New Kent C. H., yesterday. About two thousand people, including many colored women, were present. During the trip from Henric county jail, where they had been confined, the prisoners maintained indifference to their fate, conversed freely with any one addressing them, and when questioned as to their crime gave a detailed account of the whole affair. They accepted and smoked cigars given them. After the ropes were adjusted each of the negroes made a speech acknowledging his guilt. The black eyes were adjusted and the traps sprung. Christian struggled violently, but Smith seemed to have his neck broken. In twenty minutes the bodies were cut down.

The trial of John E. Poindeexter for the murder of C. C. Curtis was continued in Richmond yesterday. Mr. V. S. Carlor, a clerk in the shoe store of Wingo, Elliott & Crump, where deceased was employed, and who witnessed the assault upon him by the prisoner on the morning of the homicide, was put on the stand by the Commonwealth, and related what occurred in the store on that occasion, when Poindeexter came in and horsewhipped Curtis for alleged insults the deceased had offered to Miss Isabella Cottrell on the Friday previous, when she came there to have a pair of shoes exchanged. Defense objected to his testimony, on the ground that it was an occurrence antecedent to the murder. The court overruled the objection and counsel excepted. At the session of the court last night Mr. Thos. Poindeexter, a brother of the prisoner, was put on the stand by the defense. Miss Cottrell will probably be put on the witness stand by the defense to-day.

LEGAL STATUS OF WOMEN.—In the case of Ritchie vs. Hyatt, decided by the court of the District of Columbia in general term yesterday, the question involved is the personal liability of a married woman upon her bond given for the purchase money of real estate. The suit was a personal action upon the purchase money of real estate, which was conveyed to her at the time the bond was executed and delivered. The defendant was a married woman, owning real estate as her separate property at the time of the purchase. The question arose upon the defendant's demurrer, and was entirely new to the jurisdiction. The court held that the statute does not authorize a married woman to purchase real estate upon credit; that such a contract is not a contract; "in relation to her sole and separate property" that her personal obligation, given for the purchase money, is not binding upon her, and that judgment must be entered for the defendant.

Robbery.

BOSTON, March 25.—J. H. King, of New York, and his wife, Madam Jones King, male pickpocket, were robbed of their watches and \$105 in money, in a sleeping car on their way to this city yesterday. The stolen property had been placed for safety between the mattresses of Mr. King's berth. No clue to the thief has been discovered.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

In the Senate yesterday the West Point and Hanover Junction Railroad bill was passed by a vote of 22 to 9.

Bills were also passed to authorize the Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company to record mortgages and deeds of trust under certain conditions to incorporate the Virginia Jockey Club; to incorporate the Old Dominion Fishing and Yacht Club; to provide the time for holding the courts in the third judicial circuit; and to incorporate the Virginia Forest Improvement Company.

The Midcott register bill was taken up, and Mr. Fulkerson's substitute for the bill to return to the special license system—was defeated.

Mr. Paul proposed to amend Mr. Fulkerson's substitute by inserting an independent section after section 14, the following:

Sec. 15—All of the money collected under this act, not however to exceed one fifth of the whole tax levied and collected, shall be annually set apart by the Auditor, and applied to the payment of the amount now due the public free school teachers. The amendment was rejected.

The bill was then ordered to be engrossed. At the night session bills were passed authorizing an increase of the salary of the county judge of Loudoun; to authorize the treasurer of Orange county to collect tax tickets and county levies for the years 1875, 1876 and 1877; and to amend the 12th section of an act approved April 4, 1877, entitled "An act to provide for the working of roads and repairing bridges in the county of Rappahannock."

In the House of Delegates a resolution was introduced and referred providing for a final adjournment on the 21st of April.

A number of bills were reported from committees, and leaves of absence granted to various members for from one to five days.

Bills were passed authorizing the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church in Fredericksburg to sell and convey a part of their church lot and invest the proceeds of the sale, and to provide for keeping in repair partition fences in the county of Fauquier.

Letter from West Virginia.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.)

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W. VA., Mar. 24.—The S. V. Railroad, which finished its track to this point from Charleston on the first of the new year, will, it is understood, with the opening of the spring, go to work laying the rails on its already prepared road bed through Clarke county to Front Royal, and on up the Page Valley, to Luray, which latter place has so recently and extensively been advertised into public notice through the press on account of the large and wonderful cave found near it, not far from its great and striking features having yet been made known, nor indeed explored by its fortunate owners, if the statements made by parties visiting it are to be credited.

To extend our railroad north from this point it will be necessary to bridge the Potomac a few hundred yards below the present bridge recently rebuilt, and in less than a dozen miles the C. & O. road can be reached and a connection easily effected with that line. This route is by far the best for our interests, and it is hoped will be the one taken.

The water let into the C. & O. Canal has now reached this point on its way down, and nothing stands in the way of a speedy resumption of navigation on this great highway of trade save the fear that there will not be a brisk trade in coal, and that freights will be too low to give a fair profit. Work on dam No. —, which was so badly injured by the late heavy freshet, will be resumed on the first of April and give work to a large number of men. This will be a heavy piece of work and will take some months to complete, the dam being of solid stone work and one of the principal features of the canal.

The Circuit Court for Jefferson will begin the first of April, Judge John Blair Hoge presiding, and will continue for a month or more. The coming State election has brought out several candidates for the governorship among them C. T. Butler, ex. now State senator and a prominent granger; R. W. Baylor, ex. president of the County Court, and well known also from his prominent connection with the grange movement as well as for his record during the war and his eminent public services since in all the questions of general and county interest. The name of Judge John Blair Hoge from Martinsburg and presiding Justice of this district is also spoken of on the part of his friends for Governor. From present indications candidates for this office will be many, almost every county in the State having one or more names to offer for this important office.

The wheat is looking well indeed, and a good prospect for a fine crop encourages the farmer. There is now more clover growing in the country than we have had since or before the war, one of the best indications of a better state of the soil and of the return of old time crops we could have.

The widow and children of Mr. Nofftizer, killed near this place last fall by John B. Files, and noted at this place in the Gazette, have instituted a civil action for damages in the sum of \$5,000, against Mr. Files, in the Circuit Court of Berkeley county, for the loss to them in the violent death of their father, &c. The criminal proceedings growing out of this affair will be tried at the coming May term of the said court, the civil action to be tried as soon as a verdict is rendered upon the indictment for murder.

Shepherd College in this place is still holding a prominent place among the educational institutions of the State, under the charge of Prof. Joseph McIlerran as principal, a large number of graduates being annually sent out from the normal department of the school.

The Lutheran congregation, one of the strongest and most prosperous denominations of this place, have not yet secured a pastor since the resignation last fall of the Rev. Mr. Holland, who gave up the charge to assume the duties of president of Roanoke College.

Several new stores are to be opened in our town this spring, and then we will surely have sufficient for all our demands.

The paper mill closed in 1876 still remains so and keeps \$50,000 of capital locked up in idleness.

The cement mill is about to resume for the spring under charge of a new superintendent, Mr. George Lucas.

The Famine in Egypt.

LONDON, March 26.—The correspondence of the Times, dated Arment, Upper Egypt, February 24, gives a heart-rending account of the condition of the population of the Nile Valley. The scenes described resemble those in India during the recent famine. In some of the villages the people are past help, sitting naked like wild beasts eating roots and suffering with the endurance of despair. The mad dogs worked up by famine stamps such a brand on the starving fellows as cannot be easily described. In one town women and children fought over scraps of bread like wild animals. The case is believed to be still worse in the inland districts where the villagers are said to be starving like dogs.

Struck by Lightning.

CHEROKEE, Ill., March 26.—During a heavy thunder storm at three o'clock this morning the Roman Catholic convent in this city was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. No one was injured. The loss is estimated at \$10,000, on which there is an insurance of \$7,600.

WANTS TO BE COUNTED IN.—Ex-Judge Husted of Louisiana says: "Count me as one who believes in Keller's Roman Lieament."

CITY COUNCIL.

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the City Council was held last night.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

This board was called to order at 7.45 by President Dowham, all the wards having a full representation with the exception of the First, from which there was only one Alderman present.

Mr. Rishel presented the petition of several citizens living in the neighborhood of the Fayette street depot, asking Council to improve certain streets in that locality; at present they were in a very bad condition, and subject to constant overflow, caused by improper drainage.

Mr. Strauss taking the chair, Mr. Dowham stated to the board that when he was a member of the Committee on Public Property the same objection was raised by parties residing on Cameron and Fayette streets, and that the committee had consulted the City Surveyor and had adopted such plans as he, the Surveyor, thought would be the most successful. He thought that the only way that a permanent remedy could be reached was for the property owners to fill up the lots.

He did not know whether the Fayette street Railroad Company had raised its track higher or not, but it certainly had filled up the drains. Alderman Strauss said that when he was a member of the same committee he had had a like experience, and if the Corporation had to do with the drainage (and he implied that they would have to give very deep before they reached anything) and brief forth the money to pay for the improvements of these streets, that it would cost more than the taxes of the whole square would come to, and while he wished and intended to do, justice to every individual, he was at the same time cognizant of the fact that he represented the city's interest, and as long as he was a member of the Board of Aldermen he intended on his part to meet out justice both to the people and the Corporation.

Alderman Smith said he thought the Fayette street railroad had caused the difficulty, and called upon the Superintendent of Police, who was upon the floor, to explain to the board the grievances of the petitioners, saying he believed Mr. Clifford's long experience in such matters would enable him to give a more intelligible account of the matter than he could.

Mr. Strauss—I do not see what the Fayette street railroad has to do with it.

Mr. C. being again called upon, made a very concise and explicit statement of the matter, but as he spoke in an almost inaudible tone, the reporter only caught enough of the Superintendent's remarks to say that coming from such a worthy officer, he has no doubt it had a very salutary effect upon the board.

Mr. Strauss moved that the petition be referred to the Committee on Public Property.

Mr. Smith said that they had had the same matter up before, and that he hoped that Council would now take some definite action in the premises. He said it was droll as goes to keep a good sanitary record, and that Alexandria had in the past carried out this law, but unless something was speedily done to get rid of these cesspools they would breed contagion. The petition was referred to the Committee on Streets.

A bill authorizing the Tax Collectors to rent certain property under the supervision of Council committees, caused some debate, which was participated in by Messrs. Reid, Marbury and Litchell, and after several unimportant amendments, was passed.

At this point there was a lull in business and members began to gather around the stove (the temperature of the hall was excellent,) but whether to warm, to gather inspiration from the dying embers, or to discuss the coming municipal election, the reporter saith not, but at any rate.

Mr. Sumner, who is not a candidate, thinking the dignity of the board was being encroached upon, asked, in reference, at least for the time, that members take their seats.

Mr. Smith said he disliked to bring up the petition of the citizens of the Third Ward again, but felt that it was his duty to do so, and thereupon offered a resolution that the Committee on Streets be empowered to make such improvements as were prayed for in the petition presented by Mr. Rishel.

Mr. Strauss wished to remind Mr. Smith that the city was largely in debt and though he was always ready to make necessary repairs, economy must be the watchword of this Council.

Mr. Smith rejoined that he had already been reminded of that fact when he offered a resolution in reference to the Washington and Ohio Railroad.

The resolution was adopted.

A committee of conference was here appointed to confer with the lower board, and upon their return the Board adjourned.

COMMON COUNCIL.

The regular meeting of the Common Council last night was thinly attended. In the absence of the President, John B. Smoot, ex. president.

The Committee on Streets reported adversely on a petition for a repair of Cameron street from Fairfax to Royal street, because there was no money to do the work.

A petition for repair of Alfred street from King to Cameron coming in.

Mr. Peake moved to direct that the work be done.

Mr. Latham hoped that the petition would be sent to the Committee on Streets, Council had just refused to repair the street, at the market square, and certainly as there was no money in the case there would be none in the other case. The Committee on Streets had an arrangement with the Alexandria and Fredericksburg Railroad for a supply of gravel with which Patrick street can be gravelled from King to Cameron, and Cameron street from Patrick to Payne. This would give a good road way.

A petition from sundry gentlemen for an improvement to prevent the water from backing up and overflowing the houses there was read.

Mr. Evans explained that the back up of the water was caused by a want of sufficient water way under the railroad, and that this would soon be remedied, and all cause of complaint removed.

Mr. Latham thought the petition gratuitous. The Committee on Streets and the Superintendent of Police had gone over that ground and made arrangements for a remedy a very short time ago. The Supervisor of the Alexandria and Fredericksburg Railroad had promised to reconstruct the culverts, and unless that was done in time the committee would take proper action in the matter.

A resolution of the Aldermen for cutting open the streets so as to relieve the upper end of Cameron street of overflow was referred to the Committee on Streets and the Board adjourned.

Matricide.

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 26.—Patrick Dwyer, a noted desperado who has already served two terms in the Auburn State Prison, was arrested last night charged with matricide. In a melee at his home with his father, Mrs. Dwyer attempted to separate them, when, it is charged, that the son struck her, the effects of the blow killing her. It is, however, claimed that the mother was subject to heart disease, and the undue excitement of the fight between father and son caused her death.

Coal Sale.

NEW YORK, March 26.—At 11 o'clock to-day 100,000 tons of Scanton coal were sold by order of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company. The prices obtained were lower than those paid at the last sale. The first 1,500 tons steamer, went at \$2.17. Gravel and egg sold at \$2.17 to \$2.20; stove \$2.50 to \$2.55; chestnut, \$2.25 to \$2.35.

DIED.

On Tuesday evening, the 25th of March, 1879, W. DOUGLASS STUART, in the 45th year of his age, died. The funeral will take place on Thursday evening at half past seven o'clock. The friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

MATTINGS, a cheap lot, opened by Mr. M. N. BARKLEY.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 26.—There was but a short session of Congress to-day. The House adjourned immediately after the journal had been read, and, pending the introduction of resolutions for amending the rules, the republicans, apparently anxious to restrict legislation to the business for which the extra session was called, and some of the democrats, wishing to be able to transact other business during the delays that may occur in the passage of the appropriation bills, the Senate went into executive session after the morning hour, and in a few minutes also adjourned.

At 1 o'clock the democrats of both houses went into joint session in the hall of the House. The Waller, formerly the Teller committee, had ex-Secretary Gorman before them this morning, and examined him with reference to the circular he as secretary of the executive committee of the republican party had issued immediately preceding last fall's congressional elections. He testified that that part of the circular relating to contributions for political purposes had been submitted to the President, but that that portion concerning the democrats of revolutionary schemes, and that it came back with the words, "Under the approval of the President," caused it to be read "Would meet with an opposition from the President."

A sub-committee was appointed to go to Philadelphia and prosecute investigations there concerning frauds at the late election.

Speaker Randall is busy engaged in the work of composing the House committee. It is understood that the Committee on the District of Columbia will be composed almost entirely of new members.

Messrs. Simpson, Noble, Dowham and Strauss, of Alexandria, waited upon Senators Johnston and Withers to-day in behalf of K. Kemper, Charles Jones, L. H. Kell and Geo. Gernard, who are applicants for